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COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE
QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING
OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 29 March 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 27 March 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Stevo Crvenkovski, addressed to you.

I would kindly request your assistance in distributing this letter as a document of the General Assembly under item 79, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Denko MALESKI
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 27 March 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia addressed to the Secretary-General

I have read your draft report regarding the situation in the Republic of Macedonia with great attention. With a view of attaining a more objective report on the situation, allow me to make the following concrete suggestions on the draft text.

I propose the following revisions:

Paragraph 40

The last sentence of paragraph 40 ("The parties that boycotted the elections held influence over a significant portion of the electorate; as they now recognize neither the Parliament nor the President, a situation exists that is not conducive to constructive political dialogue") should be dropped altogether.

The elections in the Republic of Macedonia, despite certain technical flaws, were assessed as fair and democratic. The boycott of the elections of the two opposition parties ensued in the second round of the elections, following the defeat they suffered in the first round of the elections. Following the elections, a legitimate Government was established in the Republic of Macedonia, operating as a multiparty Government, comprising four of the seven parties represented in Parliament.

Paragraph 41

The last sentence of paragraph 41 ("Despite verification by international observers of the veracity of the results and the proper conduct of the census, ethnic Albanian leaders have disputed the results") should also be dropped.

It is a fact that the census in the Republic of Macedonia was conducted legally and under international supervision. We therefore consider any political statements made about the census irrelevant.

Paragraph 42

Paragraph 42 should be reformulated and the existing text replaced with the following:

"42. Recently, some leaders of the ethnic Albanian population have stepped up demands for the establishment of an Albanian language university in Tetovo. The Government takes the view that the project to establish such a university outside the State system is against the Constitution and the laws of the Republic and has charged that the supporters of the project are using purportedly educational issues to advance their political ambitions. Police have intervened on several occasions to halt the project,

culminating in an incident on 17 February in which, during a demonstration in Tetovo in support of the project, one ethnic Albanian was shot dead and a number of policemen were injured. The Ministry of Internal Affairs has filed criminal charges against five ethnic Albanians, who are accused of obstructing the official law enforcement officers from executing their duty. Shortly before this incident, ethnic Albanian members of Parliament, who hold 19 out of the 120 seats in Parliament, boycotted parliamentary sessions in support of their demands for the use of the Albanian language in the Parliament, which is not in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Parliament. In the meantime, the representatives of the People's Democratic Party have returned and resumed work in the Parliament."

Paragraph 43

The third sentence of paragraph 43 ("The trade embargo imposed by Greece in February 1994 ..."), should be revised to state: "The illegal trade embargo imposed by Greece as a unilateral measure in February 1994 ...".

We deem that revision to be in the spirit of Security Council resolution 817 (1993) and accompanying documents of the Security Council (presidential statement).

Paragraph 44

We propose a full revision of paragraph 44. This is not an issue of mutual recognition of the international borders between the Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro. The documents of the United Nations and the European Union recognize the internal borders between the former Yugoslav republics as international borders. Nor is there any territorial dispute between the Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro. The problem is the demarcation of the border, for which Macedonia proposed the establishment of an inter-State Commission.

Paragraph 80

We propose that the following be added to paragraph 80:

"The Government of the Republic of Macedonia is making continual efforts to develop good inter-ethnic relations and to fulfil the rights of the nationalities."

Paragraph 81

We propose that the following be added to paragraph 81:

"According to resolution ... of the Security Council regarding the implementation of sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro, the Republic of Macedonia has the right to compensation of damages resulting from the sanctions."

I am hopeful that you will give these proposals due consideration, and that we will continue in our joint efforts to reach a more objective representation of the situation in the Republic of Macedonia.

(Signed) Stevo CRVENKOVSKI
Minister for Foreign Affairs